

The Mystery of the Boule Cabinet

By BURTON E. STEVENSON

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CHAPTER XV.

The Secret of the Cabinet.

THERE was a drug store at the corner with a public telephone station, and two minutes later I was asking to be connected with the city room at the Record office.

No, said a supercilious voice, Mr. Godfrey was not there; he had left some time before. No, the speaker did not know where he was going, nor when he would be back.

"Look here," I said, "this is important. I want to talk to the city editor—and be quick about it."

There was an instant's astonished silence.

"What name?" asked the voice.

"Lester of Royce & Lester—and you might tell your city editor that Godfrey is a close friend of mine."

The city editor seemed to understand, for I was switched on to him a moment later. But he was scarcely more satisfactory.

"We sent Godfrey up into Westchester to see a man," he said, "on a tip that looked pretty good. He started just as soon as he got his Pigot story written, and he ought to be back almost any time. Is there a message I can give him?"

"Yes. Tell him Pigot is at the Twenty-third street station and that he'd better come up as soon as he can."

"Very good. I'll give him the message the moment he comes in."

In the street again, I paused hesitatingly at the curb, my eyes on the red light of the police station. What was about to happen there? What was the sensation M. Pigot had up his sleeve?

I turned toward the light, pushed open the door and entered. There was no one in sight except the sergeant at the desk.

"My name is Lester," I said. "You have a cabinet here belonging to the estate of the late Philip Vantine."

"We've got a cabinet, all right, but I don't know who it belongs to."

"It belongs to Mr. Vantine's estate. I'd like to see it a minute."

"You can't see it tonight. Come around tomorrow. Besides, I don't know you."

"Here's my card. Either Mr. Simmonds or Mr. Grady would know me, and tomorrow won't do."

The sergeant took the card, looked at it and looked at me.

"Wait a minute," he said at last and disappeared through a door at the farther side of the room. He was gone three or four minutes, and the station clock struck 12 as I stood there. At last the sergeant came back.

"Come along," he said, opening the gate in the railing and motioning me through. "Straight on through that door," he added, and sat down again at his desk.

With a desperate effort at careless unconcern, I opened the door and passed through. Then involuntarily I stopped, for there in the middle of the floor was the Boule cabinet, with M. Pigot standing beside it and Grady and Simmonds sitting opposite, frowning at black clogs.

"Well, Mr. Lester," Grady said, "so you want to see this cabinet?"

"Yes," I answered. "It really belongs to the Vantine estate, you know. I'm going to put in a claim for it—that is, if you are not willing to surrender it without contest."

"Did you just happen to think of this in the middle of the night?" he inquired quizzically.

"No," I said boldly, "but I saw you and Mr. Simmonds and this gentleman," with a bow to M. Pigot, "turn in here a moment ago, and it occurred

to me that the cabinet might have something to do with your visit. Of course we don't want the cabinet injured. It is very valuable."

"Don't worry," said Grady easily. "We're not going to injure it. And I think we'll be ready to surrender it to you at any time after tonight. Mooseer Pigot here wants to do a few tricks with it first. I suppose you have a certain right to be present, so if you like sleight of hand sit down."

I hastily sought a chair, my heart singing within me. Then I attempted to assume a mask of indifference, for M. Pigot was obviously annoyed at my presence, and I feared for a moment that his Gallic snavity would be strained to breaking. But Grady, if he noticed his guest's annoyance, paid no heed to it, and I began to suspect that the Frenchman's courtesy and good breeding had ended by rubbing Grady the wrong way, they were in such painful contrast to his own hobbled manners. Whatever the cause, there was a certain malice in the smile he turned upon the Frenchman.

"And now, Mooseer Pigot," he said, settling back in his chair a little farther, "we're ready for the show."

"What I have to tell you, sir," began M. Pigot in a voice as hard as steel and cold as ice, "has, understand well, to be told in confidence. It must remain between ourselves until the criminal is secured."

"Understand, Mr. Lester?" Grady asked, looking at me. And I nodded.

I saw Pigot's eyes flame and his face flush with anger, for Grady's tone was almost insulting. I looked at him with interest. He was typically French—smooth shaved, with a face seamed with little wrinkles and very white, eyes shadowed by enormously bushy lashes and close cropped hair as white as his face. He was about sixty years of age, I guessed, and there was about him the air of a man who had passed through a hundred romances and experiences without once losing his aplomb. Certainly he was not going to lose it now.

"The story which I have to relate," he began in his careful English, clipping his words a little now and then "has to do with the theft of the famous Michelsvitch diamonds. You may perhaps remember the case."

I remembered it, certainly, for the robbery had been conceived and carried out with such brilliancy and daring that its details had at once arrested my attention—to say nothing of the fact that the diamonds, which formed the celebrated collection belonging to the Grand Duke Michael of Russia, sojourning in Paris because unappreciated in his native land and also because of the supreme attraction of the French capital to one of his temperaments—were valued at something like \$8,000,000 francs.

"That theft," continued M. Pigot, "was accomplished in a manner at once so bold and so unique that we were certain it could be the work of but a single man—a rascal named Crochard, who calls himself also 'The Invincible'—a rascal who has given us very great trouble, but whom we have never been able to convict. In this case we had against him no direct evidence; we subjected him to an interrogation and found that he had taken care to provide a perfect alibi; so we were compelled to release him. We kept Crochard under constant surveillance. We searched his rooms not once, but many times.

"He knew thoroughly what we were doing, for what we were searching. He knew also that nowhere in Europe would he dare attempt to sell a single one of those jewels. We suspected that he would attempt to bring them to this country, and we warned your department of customs. For we knew that here he could sell all but the very largest not only almost without danger, but at a price far greater than he could obtain for them in Europe. We closed every avenue to him, as we thought—and then, all at once, he disappeared."

"For two weeks we heard nothing, then came the story of this man Drouet, killed by a stab on the hand. At once we recognized the work of Crochard, for he alone of living men possesses the secret of the poison of the Medici. It is a fearful secret, which, in his whole life he had used but once, and that upon a man who had betrayed him."

M. Pigot paused and passed his hand across his forehead.

"We were at a loss to understand Crochard's connection with Drouet," M. Pigot continued. "Drouet, while a mere hanger-on of the cafes of the boulevards, was not a criminal. Then came the death of that creature, Morel, in an effort to gain possession of this cabinet, and we began to understand. We made inquiries concerning the cabinet. We learned its history, and the secret of its construction. It was to ascertain if that conclusion is correct that I came to America."

"What is the conclusion?" queried Grady, who had listened to all this with a manifest impatience in strong contrast to my own absorbed interest.

"Our theory," replied M. Pigot, without the slightest acceleration of speech, "is that the Michelsvitch diamonds are concealed in this cabinet. Everything points to it, and we shall soon see."

As he spoke he drew from his pocket a steel gauntlet, marvelously like the one Godfrey had used, and slipped it over his right hand.

"When one attempts to fathom the secrets of the invincible one," he said with a smile, "one must go armored. Already three men have paid with their lives the penalty of their rashness."

"Three men?" repeated Grady, wonderingly.

"Three," and Pigot checked them

off upon his fingers. "First the man who gave his name as D'Aurelle, but who was really a blackmailer named Drouet; second, M. Vantine, the connoisseur, and third, the creature Morel. Of these the only one that really matters is M. Vantine. His death was most unfortunate, and I am sure that Crochard regrets it exceedingly."

"One moment, monsieur," I said, bursting in, unable to remain longer silent. "This is all so wonderful—so thrilling—will you not tell us more? For what were these three men searching for—the jewels?"

(To be Continued)

LYNCHBURG.

March 16, 1914.

George Smith and family and Mrs. Carr were guests of Wm. Julian and wife, of Webertown, Sunday.

Agnes Barr and Della Thornburg visited friends at Dodsonville Wednesday.

Clarence Dean and wife are visiting relatives in Lawrenceburg, Ind.

Dr. McAdow and wife entertained Mr. and Mrs. Ferd. Ratcliff and Miss Eulah Blanche Pitzer Sunday.

Mrs. Cinna Miller entertained Mrs. Chas. Russel, of New York, and Sam Perry, of New Orleans, at dinner on Monday.

Mrs. Lillian Myers was in Cincinnati Monday and Tuesday.

John Hambletree, of Hamilton, is visiting his sister, Mrs. Lon Shaffer.

Mrs. T. E. Moorehead spent last week with her sister at Williamsburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ladd, of Bridges, were guests of W. B. Ruble and wife on Tuesday.

Rev. Trout, of Springfield, spent two days of last week with W. A. West and family.

The teachers of our school attended the H. C. T. A. in Hillsboro Saturday.

Mrs. Gibson was a business caller in Hillsboro Saturday.

W. L. Stautner transacted business in Hillsboro Monday.

George Smith and wife spent Sunday with relatives at Cuba.

Mr. and Mrs. James Hunter and daughter, Nelle, were with his parents at Cuba Sunday.

John Williams spent Saturday and Sunday with his family.

Joe Townsend and wife and son, Johnson, visited her parents at Norwood over Sunday.

Mary Wallace shopped in Cincinnati Friday.

Miss Lizzie Pfister has purchased the Cleveland property on Broadway.

Mrs. Harry Murphy entertained S. S. Class No. 3 at her home Thursday evening.

C. E. Chaney and wife, of Sharpsville, were entertained at the home of W. A. Saylor and wife Tuesday.

Leonard Carpenter and wife entertained Miss Vernice Skeen and Darnard Curtis, of New Vienna, and Miss Bella Carpenter, of Shackleton, Sunday.

Dr. Archer and wife entertained the following [with a six o'clock dinner on Monday, Messdames Faris, Wiggins, Richards and Rev. Estel, of Texas.

Miss Eulah Blanche Pitzer returned to her home in Evansville, Ind., Monday.

Dave Archer and wife had as dinner guests Sunday Isaac Tedrick and wife, of Blanchester, Henry Dunseith and wife and son, of Fayetteville, and Harlie Tedrick and family.

Mrs. S. S. Puckett has returned home after spending the winter with her daughter in Buffalo, New York.

Mrs. Lucy, of Sabina, is with Mrs. Puckett for a short visit.

Miss Emma Graves, who has been with Mrs. Wm. Cleveland for a fortnight, returned to her home in Louisville, Ky., Monday.

Miss Blanche Smith, of Leesburg, was a business visitor here Thursday.

Dana McAdow and Wendel Perry were in Cincinnati Tuesday and Wednesday of last week.

Mrs. David Simpkins and Mrs. Fred Simpkins and son are visiting relatives in Madisonville this week.

Roy Miller and wife spent the first of last week with relatives near Cincinnati.

Miss Mame Blingman visited relatives in Cincinnati part of last week.

Mrs. Wm. Patterson, of Blanchester, was a visitor here the first of the week.

Miss Bessie Hunter is spending a week with Miss Loren Barrett, of Leesburg.

Mrs. O. W. Roush and sister, Mrs. Raymond, were shopping in Cincinnati Friday and Saturday.

Lon Chaney and two daughters, of Russell, spent Saturday with his sister, Mrs. Amelia Brewer.

J. W. Johnson and family are moving into the cottage vacated by Wm. Noble and family.

Wm. Dumenil and wife and daughter, Ruth, were guests of Clark Ogden and wife, of Hillsboro Sunday.

It is generous of Becker to promise not to make a fuss about the graft charges if the murder case is dropped.

—Springfield Republican.

Spring Millinery Opening

WE WILL HAVE ON DISPLAY

Friday Evening and Saturday, March 20 and 21

All the latest creations and designs in spring millinery.

You are most cordially invited to attend this opening.

TROP'S MILLINERY STORE, South High St.

F&T

Silver Mine Seed Oats

EXTRA FINE QUALITY

These oats took first premium at our last Street Fair. Have been re-cleaned.

CALL AND SEE THEM.

Union Grocery

Introductory Sale of Trimmed Hats, \$3.50 and \$5.00

Josephine Roush's Millinery needs no introduction to the women of Hillsboro and surrounding country. They are acquainted with it from past seasons. You'll find these hats at \$3.50 and \$5.00 measuring up to our standard. They are trimmed in many fetching ways with ribbons, flowers, maline and pompons; choice

\$3.50 & \$5

JOSEPHINE ROUSH'S

TAYLORSVILLE.

March 16, 1914.

O. L. Roler and family entertained at dinner Sunday, Edith and Glenn Workman, of Winkle, Rev. David Barr, of Cincinnati, Mamie and Ethel Carr, Gladys and Opal Fender and James Donohoo and family.

A. L. Carr and wife and two daughters, Virginia and Elenora, spent Sunday with A. Marconett and wife, of Hollowtown.

Wm. Sanders and wife and son, Wilbur, of Pike College, and Mrs. Mary Carr, of Olive, spent Sunday with E. L. Carr and wife.

Mrs. America Robinson is visiting her son, Alva and wife, at Winkle.

Wm. Haller, of Springfield, is visiting his parents, Joseph Haller and wife.

Protracted meeting closed at the U. B. church Sunday.

N. Gaymon spent Monday in Hillsboro.

F. S. Ruble and family entertained a number of young people at dinner Sunday.

C. A. Roberts and family and Chas. Kohl and wife were entertained Sunday by G. N. Roberts and family.

Mrs. Clara Windom spent Sunday with L. E. Euverard and family.

FORT HILL.

March 16, 1914.

Elva Cartwright and wife, of Sinking Spring, called on the latter's parents J. P. Havens and wife, Sunday evening.

Mrs. Rebecca Stults spent Saturday night and Sunday with Mrs. Jane Stults.

Lawrence Kessler, wife and baby spent Sunday with relatives at Sinking Spring.

J. B. Turner and Edward White spent Sunday with the latter's father at Cliff Range.

C. A. Rhoads and wife were business visitors in Hillsboro Saturday.

Fred Spargur and family, of Rainsboro, spent Sunday with H. M. Eubanks and family.

Wayne Harris, of Greenfield, has been the guest of his father in law, Smiley Bryan, since Wednesday.

Miss Margerite Chapman, of Sinking Spring, and Wilfred Hunter, of Marshall, called on H. V. Matthews and wife, Sunday evening.

J. B. Turner spent Saturday at the home of Mrs. John Plummer.

Frank Stanley and family left for Springfield Wednesday, where they expect to make their home.

John White and two sisters spent Sunday with their uncle, Val White, near Cynthia.

Miss Grace Havens is the guest of her sister, Mrs. Elva Cartwright, at Sinking Spring.

are curable. All kinds mean suffering and danger. The CAUSE is always internal.

Dr. Leonard's HEM-ROID

tablets produce amazing results by attacking the INTERNAL CAUSE. The pills are dried up and permanently cured. 60 days' treatment, \$1.00.

DR. LEONARD'S HEM-ROID

Dr. W. K. Smith Co. and all druggists.

PILES

PODOLAX

Notice of Appointment.

Estate of R. H. Hopkins, deceased.
Robert Hopkins has been appointed and qualified as administrator of the estate of R. H. Hopkins, late of Highland County, Ohio, deceased.
Dated this 9th day of March A. D. 1914
adv J. H. WOHLST,
Probate Judge of said County.

Notice of Appointment.

Estate of Mary Mary Roush deceased
Myrtle Chaney has been appointed and qualified as executrix of the estate of Mary Roush, late of Highland County, Ohio, deceased.
Dated this 21st day of February A. D. 1914.
adv J. H. WOHLST,
Probate Judge of said County.

Teachers' Examination.

The Highland county Board of School Examiners hereby gives notice that examinations of Applicants of Certificates will take place in the Washington School Building, Hillsboro, on the first Saturday of every month.
Patterson examinations will be held on the third Saturday of April and on the third Saturday of May.
As prescribed by law, the fee for teachers examinations will be 50 cents, while, for Patterson examinations no fee is charged.
O. A. TENNER, Sinking Spring, Pres.
adv W. H. VANCE, Hillsboro, Vice Pres.
H. B. GALLITTE, Lynchburg, Sec.

Private Sale of Valuable Personal Property.

Having decided to quit the road building business on account of my other business taking all my time, I will offer at private sale at my home in Reesville, Ohio, the following personal property:

1 Aurora Stone Crusher, 10x15, with 25 foot elevator, and all necessary appurtenances.

1 Revolving Screen.

3 Stone Hoppers and Loaders for grading stone preparatory to building water bound macadam road.

1 24 inch Hoist.

150 feet of 5/8 cable.

3 Steel Cars.

1000 feet of T-Rails.

2 Steam Drills.

All pipes and hammers necessary to complete the above outfit.

1 8 h. p. International Famous Gasoline Engine, good as new.

1 4 inch tubular Pump and 25 feet of 4 inch gas pipe connected.

Also 12 passenger Automobile, Stoddard Dayton 1909 Roadster, all in good repair.

1 Boarding Car, 8x8, equipped with cook stove, cooking utensils and dishes.

The foregoing will be sold for cash or negotiable paper or exchange for property of equal value.

Said property must be closed out within the next 60 days.

Will be pleased to show prospective purchasers the above property.

Phone, write or call on T. N. BROOKSAANK,

(4-2) adv Reesville, Ohio.

Many Children are Sickly.

Mother Gray's Sweet Powders for Children Break up Colds in 24 hours, relieves Feverishness, Headache, Stomach Trouble, Teething Disorders, and Destroy Worms. At all druggists, 25c. Sample mailed FREE. Address, Allen S. Olmsted, LeRoy, N. Y. adv

BALTIMORE & OHIO

SOUTHWESTERN R.R.

Winter Tourists/Tickets to Florida and points in south. Tickets on sale daily, liberal stopover, long limit.

All Year Tourists/Tickets on sale daily to California, Oregon, and Washington. See your agent for particulars.

Important change of time.

Trains depart from Hillsboro as follows:

DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY

8 a. m., 3:45 p. m., 6:30 p. m.

SUNDAY ONLY.

8:20 a. m. 6:30 p. m.

Trains arrive in Hillsboro as follows:

DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY

10:30 a. m., 6:05 p. m., 9:20 p. m.

SUNDAY ONLY

10:30 a. m., 9:20 p. m.

Two hour schedules to and from Cincinnati.

Call on or address S. G. Griffin, Agent, Hillsboro, O. L. G. Paul, D. P. A., Chillicothe.

For Every Living Thing On The Farm

Free; a 600 page book on the treatment and care of "Every Living Thing on the Farm;" horses, cattle, dogs, sheep, hogs and poultry, by Humphreys' Veterinary Specifics; also a stable chart for ready reference, to hang up. Free by mail on application. Address Humphreys Homeo Med. Co., Corner Williams & Ann Sts., N. Y. adv

A recent directory census gives Calgary, British America, a population of 90,000. The number of Americans in Calgary is estimated to be between 10,000 and 30,000. In 1904 the population of the city was 10,543.

Constipation causes headache, indigestion, dizziness, drowsiness. For a mild, opening medicine, use Doan's Regulators. 25c a box at all stores. adv



"And now, Mooseer Piggott, we're ready for the show."